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No. 302.—Vol. 13.

APRIL 1, 1868.

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## MUSIC IN THIS NUMBER.

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From the *Church Choirmaster and Organist* for May 1, 1867.

*Choral Hymns.* By J. TILLEARD. 1. "Sun of my Soul." 2. "O Light of Life." 3. "Star of Morn and Even." 4. "Lord God of Morning." 5. "Through the Day." 6. "Christus Consolator." London: Novello and Co.

The demand, now made imperative in respect of all hymn tunes intended for use in church, that they shall be congregational, is a restriction which necessarily has its effect in repressing the inclination of most composers to choose a hymn-tune as a form into which they may throw their ideas. When the conditions of performance are that the melody will inevitably be doubled, and harmonies probably be extemporised, by the singers, few musicians feel disposed to create any but the roughest matter for such rough usage. Anything of delicacy in the melody or of independent thought in the harmony must necessarily be out of place under such circumstances. Much really beautiful work is being wrought, nevertheless, by way of settings of the more poetical and suggestive of our modern hymns. Dr. Dykes, for instance, has worked in four-part hymnody to good purpose, regardless of the fate which, in respect of performance, must necessarily await his always thoughtful and sometimes really poetical productions. Whether he or any similar composer could hear his hymns sung in church, under the usual conditions, without exquisite torture, is a question. If congregations would agree to sing the melody only, in octaves, it would be some comfort to composers, who would then have at least the element of certainty in the conditions of performance, and might write accordingly.

But even in the event of such a happy compromise as this (to which probably we shall eventually come in our churches), the more delicate kind of hymn music which is growing up around us, and may be found in octavo form, for the most part, at Messrs. Novello's, will never survive congregational performance unharmed.

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4. Sacred Song, "I think of Thee," by R. REDHEAD.
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